

**The origin of life is one of the great unsolved questions in science.
But did life originate on Earth or
did it originate somewhere else in the cosmos?**



ASTROBIOLOGY AND THE EMERGENCE OF LIFE ON EARTH

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February 11, 2003 • 7:30 PM

Arizona State University • Gammage Auditorium

— FREE PUBLIC LECTURE —

Thanks to the development of the new field of Astrobiology, our approach to understanding how life began in the Universe has changed dramatically. Neither the formation of stars and planets nor the origin of life is seen as the result of miracles or inscrutable random events, but rather as natural outcomes of evolutionary events. Although the recognition of the oldest traces of life on Earth is a contentious issue, it is generally agreed that life emerged very rapidly and quickly took hold. How the first living systems emerged and diversified by evolution is still under debate. Astronomical evidence, laboratory simulations and other types of evidence strongly support the idea that the origin of life occurred from a primordial soup formed by organic compounds of both terrestrial and extraterrestrial origin.

This free public lecture is presented by the ASU Astrobiology Program and NASA Astrobiology Institute.

